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February 4, 2005

TO : U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

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FROM: James T. Strom

RE: Serial No. 09/734,701

YOUR REFERENCE: 96042

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Docket No.: 614.1788D

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Toru OKAWA

Serial No. 09/734,701

Group Art Unit: 2173

Confirmation No. 7516

Filed: December 13, 2000

Examiner: Ba Huynh

For: DISPLAY CONTROL SYSTEM CAUSING IMAGE ON DISPLAY SCREEN TO
DISAPPEAR AND REAPPEAR IN A FRIENDLY MANNER TO USER

INTERVIEW SUMMARY AND SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This submission supplements the Amendment filed September 24, 2004 in response to the Office Action mailed March 22, 2004. Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

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Docket No.: 614.1788D

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Toru OKAWA

Serial No. 09/734,701

Group Art Unit: 2173

Confirmation No. 7516

Filed: December 13, 2000

Examiner: Ba Huynh

For: DISPLAY CONTROL SYSTEM CAUSING IMAGE ON DISPLAY SCREEN TO
DISAPPEAR AND REAPPEAR IN A FRIENDLY MANNER TO USER

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This submission supplements the Supplemental Amendment filed January 21, 2005, which supplemented the Amendment filed September 24, 2004. Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

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HNB*

Serial No. 09/734,701

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELED)
2. (CANCELED)
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display control system for data control during screen display operations, said system comprising:
 - a pointing device that indicates a position on a screen of a display unit; and
 - a deleting unit that, at intervals, successively deletes first elements of a graphic from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position and rearranges second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area to provide an appearance that the second elements of data are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position,said deleting unit including a first speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically performed followingly faster in accordance with successive deletions of the first elements, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The display control system as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:
 - a completion indicating unit that displays a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

Serial No.: 09/734,701

5. (CANCELED)

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

at intervals, successively deleting first elements of a graphic from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area, to provide an appearance that the second elements of the graphic are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, a speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the first elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein said program further comprises the function of displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data processing apparatus using a computer specifically configured by execution of a program encoded on a computer-readable medium, the program controlling data display operations in a computer and including the functions of:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

Serial No.: 09/734,701

at intervals, successively deleting first elements of a graphic from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area, to provide an appearance that the second elements of the graphic are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, a speed of successive intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the first elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The data processing apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the program further comprises the function of displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CANCELED)

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, the controller comprising:

a deleting unit that, at intervals, automatically successively deletes first elements of a graphic from a specified area of a display screen at a position indicated by a pointing device and rearranges second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area to provide an appearance that the second elements of the graphic are gradually withdrawn from the specified area,

said deleting unit including a first speed control unit that automatically controls a speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the first elements are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The display controller as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

Serial No.: 09/734,701

a completion indicating unit that displays a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a deleting unit that, at intervals, automatically successively deletes and rearranges elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the elements being gradually withdrawn into the position; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

19. (CANCELED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a restoring unit that, at intervals, automatically successively restores and rearranges elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being expelled outward from the position; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly slower during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals are made slower by increasing a delay time thereof.

21. (CANCELED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

Serial No.: 09/734,701

at intervals, automatically successively deleting elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being withdrawn into the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

23. (CANCELED)

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

at intervals, automatically successively restoring elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the image being expelled outward from the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly slower during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals are made slower by increasing a delay time thereof.

25. (CANCELED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a deleting unit that, at intervals, successively deletes elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being withdrawn into the position; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly varied in speed during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals vary in speed by varying a delay time thereof.

27. (CANCELED)

Serial No.: 09/734,701

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A display controller for data control during screen display operations, said controller comprising:

a restoring unit that, at intervals, successively restores elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being expelled outward from the position; and

a speed control unit that automatically controls the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly varied in speed during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals vary in speed by varying a delay time thereof.

29. (CANCELED)

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

at intervals, automatically successively deleting elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the image being withdrawn into the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly varied during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals vary in speed by varying a delay time thereof.

31. (CANCELED)

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for controlling data display operations in a computer, said program comprising the functions of:

at intervals, automatically successively restoring elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being expelled outward from the position; and

Serial No.: 09/734,701

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically successively varied in speed during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals vary in speed by varying a delay time thereof.

33. (CANCELED)

34. (CANCELED)

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

detecting a position on a screen of a display unit, the position being indicated by a pointing operation;

at intervals, automatically successively deleting first elements of a graphic from a specified area of the screen at the indicated position, and rearranging second elements of the graphic remaining in the specified area, to provide an appearance that the second elements of the graphic are gradually withdrawn from the specified area at the indicated position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the first elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 35, further comprising displaying a predetermined image at a specified position on the screen when all the second elements of the graphic have been deleted as first elements of the graphic.

37. (CANCELED)

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

at intervals, automatically successively deleting elements of a graphic from a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being withdrawn into the position; and

Serial No.: 09/734,701

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly faster during which the elements of the graphic are successively deleted, such that following intervals are made faster by decreasing a delay time thereof.

39. (CANCELED)

40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

at intervals, automatically successively restoring elements of a graphic to a screen of a display unit at a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic being expelled outward from the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the speed of the intervals to be automatically followingly slower during which the elements of the graphic are successively restored to the screen, such that following intervals are made slower by increasing a delay time thereof.

41. (CANCELED)

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

by intervals, automatically successively deleting elements of data of a graphic item from a screen of a display unit and shifting non-deleted data elements thereof toward a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic item being withdrawn into the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the time of the successive intervals to be followingly automatically decreased, as the elements of data are successively deleted, by decreasing a delay time thereof.

43. (CANCELED)

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling data display operations, the method comprising:

Serial No.: 09/734,701

by intervals, automatically successively restoring elements of data of a graphic item to a screen of a display unit and shifting restored data elements thereof away from a position indicated by a pointing device to give an appearance of the graphic item being expelled outward from the position; and

automatically controlling, by a speed control mechanism, the times of the successive intervals to be followingly automatically increased, as the elements of data are successively restored to the screen, by increasing a delay time thereof.

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for erasing/restoring a graphic from/to a display, the method comprising:

responsive to a user command automatically controlling application of a graphic thinning/expanding process such that the thinning/expanding process is applied to the graphic with an automatically gradually ~~increasing/decreasing~~ increasing or decreasing rate of thinning, where an application of the thinning/expanding process ~~thins/adds~~ thins or adds a ratio of current pixels in or to be added to the graphic, where the image has an appearance of being ~~sucked/spread like a fluid~~ withdrawn toward or expanded away from a point of convergence/restoration, and where the rate of the thinning/expanding process is ~~increased/decreased~~ increased or decreased by using a rate control mechanism that automatically ~~varying~~ varies a factor that controls the rate.

46. (CANCELLED).

Serial No.: 09/734,701

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION**

Claims 3-4, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 35-36, 38, 40, 42, and 44-46 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claim 46 is cancelled herein.

Claims 3-4, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 35-36, 38, 40, 42, 44, and 45 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claims 3-4, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 35-36, 38, 40, 42, and 44 are rejected.

Claims 7, 11, 22, 24, 30, 32, 35, 38, 40, 42, 44, and 45 are amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant thanks the Examiner for an informal interview on February 2, 2005 and the Examiner's suggestions. The Examiner called the Applicant's representative to discuss clarifying the claims in the prior Supplemental Amendment and improving the form of the claims for possible allowance. The Applicant agreed to clarify that recording medium claims store information (e.g. a program) for allowing a *computer* to perform the relevant operations. The Applicant also agreed to clarify in the method claims that the speed control is a positive feature facilitated by a speed control mechanism rather than as an incidental side effect of deleting/restoring. Other minor clarifications are submitted.

Claim 46 is cancelled without prejudice or surrender of claimed subject matter. The features of claim 46 are found, in varying form, in the other claims. For example, claim 38 recites a delay time.

Serial No.: 09/734,701

CONCLUSION


It is respectfully requested that this Second Supplemental Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Second Supplemental Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 4 FEB 2005

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